

OE-003 - Ysgol Friars

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored (Cymru) | Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Ysgol Friars | Evidence from Friars School

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: No

Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Consultation: Response form

Name: Neil Foden

Are you submitting this response in a professional or personal capacity?:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional capacity (including on behalf of an organisation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal capacity
<p>Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Age:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I am under 13 years old <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 13 to 17 <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and wish my contribution to be anonymised <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and happy for my name to be published with my contribution
<p>Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p>In what capacity are you responding?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Child / Young person <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer <input type="checkbox"/> Other

If professional, or a provider of outdoor education, your role and the name of organisation for which you are responding:

Headteacher, Ysgol Friars, Bangor

Consultation questions

1. How important is outdoor education to children and young people's overall education and development?

- Very important
- Quite important
- Don't know
- Not very important
- Not at all important

2. What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience? Please list your top three benefits:

Confidence and character, broadened horizons, personal skills

3. Should children and young people have a guaranteed opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years, if they wish to?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

4. Should an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years, be free of charge on one occasion to pupils?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

5. What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences? (please tick all that apply)

- Financial constraints
- Health reasons
- Disabilities
- Additional Learning Needs
- Parental anxiety/uncertainty
- Child anxiety/uncertainty
- Other (the loss of teaching time for participating pupils and supervising staff and the difficulties and cost of cover)
- None

6. Equalities considerations:

Could the proposed Bill have any positive impacts on some children and young people in particular? If so, who and why?

It would provide opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged young people

Could the proposed Bill have any negative impacts on some children and young people in particular. If so, who and why? What could this Bill do to mitigate any negative impacts?

Cost to the school if the funding is not genuinely additional, lost learning time and lost teaching time for those not on the trip as staff will have to supervise. These could impact most on those already socially disadvantaged

7. What age do you believe is most suitable for children and young people to be offered an opportunity to undertake a residential outdoor education experience?

- Year 6 (age 10-11)
- Younger (please state)
- Older (please state)
- Not at any age

8. Is four nights/five days the best length for a residential outdoor experience?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and highlight any possible implications from having a standard approach of four night/five day experiences (whether positive or negative).

It is better to allocate time based on the optimum for the trip not a minimum established by legislation

9. Do you agree there is a need for legislation to ensure all children and young people are given an opportunity to access a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years?

- Strongly agree
- Agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

10. Is there anything else you would like to say about this proposal?

I wonder if the hidden costs have been factored in to this proposal. In the event that all our KS3 pupils were to be offered a guaranteed five day trip, we would have to find:

- The costs levied by the provider for the activity;
- Transport costs (roughly £500 per coach to go to Glanllyn, for example) multiplied by 14 coaches if the whole of KS3 were to go. This obviously excludes Y10 and 11: total cost £7,000;
- Approximately £11,200 in supply costs to cover the supervising staff;
- 56 days of lost teaching which may not be shared around a large number of staff and could fall disproportionately on some subjects;
- Hidden costs of the extra administration work;
- If this were increased to include all KS4 pupils, the number of lost teaching days would increase to 92, and the total cost, not including the provider costs, will rise to £27,300. If the intention is not to restrict to statutory school age and the sixth form were included, the cost would be nearer £34,000.

While these figures would be spread over five (or 7) years and would, therefore, represent a cost of £5,000 -£6,000 per annum, without the provider costs, and this represents a significant additional time and financial cost. Clearly, if the trips were run in Y5 and Y6, none of the above, from a secondary perspective, would apply.

My other concern is whether this would genuinely be new money. We are facing a cut of some £82,000 next year, even with stable pupil numbers. We simply cannot afford to have existing funding repurposed or ring-fenced. The Welsh Government has also set its face against too many grants or funding coming with strings attached and I would be opposed to seeing this position weakened with funding for outdoor education ring-fenced in the allocation.